



## Central South Dakota Outdoor Report

### Wildlife Division – Region 2



#### *Brule/Buffalo Counties*

*Diana Schroeder*



#### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

The walleye bite has slowed down recently in the Chamberlain area. Fishermen have been catching smaller walleyes 14-16 inches in the Chamberlain area. The walleye bite has slowed down at Ft. Thompson as well. The minimum length restriction is 15 inches with one walleye over 20 inches. The daily possession limit is 4 walleyes. The fish cleaning stations are open in the Chamberlain area and Ft. Thompson. The area between the Interstate Bridge and Railroad Bridge is open to fishing from a boat until December.

Be sure to double check your boat safety equipment (sufficient life jackets for everyone on board, fire extinguisher, and a throw able device) and boat registration before hitting the water.



#### **Hunting Report:**

The 2014 Hunting and Trapping Handbooks are now available!

The September Canada Goose season opened September 1<sup>st</sup> through the 30<sup>th</sup>. Daily limit 15 doves and a possession limit of 45 doves. Be sure to check the boundaries of the open areas in Brule and Buffalo Counties. The boundary includes SD Hwy 34, east of Lees Blvd; southeast to SD Hwy 34; east 7 miles to 350<sup>th</sup> Ave; south to I-90 on 350<sup>th</sup> Ave; south and east on SD Hwy 50 to Geddes. An annual small game or combination license, state migratory bird certification, and federal waterfowl stamp are required for hunting this season. Canada Geese have been reported in the southeast portion of Brule County near Torey Lake.

Duck season in the Low Plains zone opened September 27<sup>th</sup> east of Hwy 50. The High Plain Zone opens October 11<sup>th</sup> which includes west of Hwy 50. Several hunters have reported harvesting ducks near the Holoubek Game Production Area south of Kimball. Some Canada geese are slowly migrating into the Chamberlain area.

Dove season opened September 1<sup>st</sup> until November 9<sup>th</sup>. Daily limit 15; possession limit 45. Dove shooting hours are one-half hour before sunrise to sunset. A person may not hunt mourning doves on or within 50 yards of a public road. A person may not shoot a mourning dove unless the bird is flying. A person may not hunt with a shotgun capable of holding more than 3 shells. A small game license and migratory bird certification is required. The doves are starting to leave the area due to colder weather.

Prairie chicken and grouse season opened September 20<sup>th</sup>. Landowners have reported seeing increased grouse numbers in the Chamberlain area this year.

Pheasant brood routes numbers have increased 76% more than last year state-wide. During the resident opener, hunters reported seeing many roosters on the public hunting area. The regular pheasant season opens for residents and nonresidents on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Youth/Mentor deer season opened September 13<sup>th</sup>.

Bow season for deer opened September 27<sup>th</sup> state wide.

Fall turkey season opens November 1<sup>st</sup>. There have been reports of turkeys on Boyer GPA recently.

## **Campbell County**

*Doug DeLaRoi*



**Fishing Report:** *See Missouri River report below*

Small lakes have had very little use with no reports. Lake Oahe has had spotty success with anglers catching walleye from 14 to 18 inches.



**Hunting Report:**

Good numbers of doves and geese in the area.

## **Corson/Dewey Counties**

*Shawn Madison:*



**Fishing Report:**

**Pudwell Dam:** Good fish populations including several year classes of walleye, largemouth bass, crappie, and perch. Fishing activity has been low.

**Morristown East:** No activity but stocking efforts past two years has been successful for largemouth and crappies. Fish size is small. Some northern pike.

**Morristown West:** No activity. perch stockings have been successful ranging from 8-10 inches.

**Trail City Dam:** Little to no activity and a lot of small northern pike showed up in surveys.

**Little Moreau #1:** Activity low but casting lures are good for pike and bass. Some large crappies and bluegill.

**Little Moreau #2:** Catching nice size rainbow trout on lures and corn with salmon eggs. Stocked 1200 Rainbow trout in the beginning of June 2014. Another stocking of 1200 rainbows the third week of September.

**Isabel Lake:** Some activity. Walleyes being caught using trolling crank baits and spinners. Largemouth bass have been biting. Nice population of bluegill, some large being caught. Fish from the new fishing dock.

**Eagle Butte Dam:** Little activity. Year classes of bluegill look very good ranging from 6-8 inches. Bass numbers are very good as well as perch



### **Hunting Report:**

Unit 1 Canada Goose opened on September 1<sup>st</sup> as well. Lots of local geese in the area. Hunters should have plenty of luck. Do your scouting and don't forget to ask permission. Grouse is open, hatch was fair but numbers are still low. Hunters had mixed success but overall a good experience. 70 percent of the harvest was young birds. Some reports of partridge in spots. Pheasant opens this weekend, numbers are better than last year but still below the ten year average

## ***Charles Mix/Douglas Counties***

*Jeff Martin*



### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

Anglers are starting to catch some fish. South has been better than north. Most are fishing deep in the 30ft range. Weekend weather looks great to catch some fish in the morning and do some hunting in the afternoon / evening.



### **Hunting Report:**

Take your pick this weekend. There are ducks and geese around to be had. Pheasant season opens at Noon on Saturday. A few doves are still hanging around the area. Excellent weather to be sitting in a tree stand in the evenings. Remember to wear a blaze orange vest and cap when pheasant hunting, keep shots up and wear eye protection. There are accidents every year, DON'T be one of them. Pheasant sightings are up recently should be a good weekend.

## ***Gregory County***

*Hans Walleser*



### **Fishing Report:**

No Report



### **Hunting Report:**

Archery deer season opened Saturday. Temperatures were in the upper 80's and keep deer movement minimal. South central South Dakota is still recovering from EHD in some areas. Deer numbers seem to be rebounding and there were many does with twin fawns this spring. The key to early season success is to target food sources as deer are still very predictable. Set up between bedding areas and feeding areas in the early morning or late evening. Make sure you tag your deer on the leg and validate the tag by notching the date and signing it. If you were unable to scout during the spring and summer, you will have a harder time hunting. Wait until the rut in November when bucks are cruising all day.

Grouse season is open and there are plenty of birds around, including birds on Walk In Areas and state owned lands. Limit is 3 daily, 15 in possession.

Dove season is also open. There are a few doves around yet. State migratory bird certificate and a small game license are required.

Please do not drive down trails on Game Production Areas after rainfall. Park your vehicle and walk so you don't need a tow.

There is a Hunt safe class at the Burke Elementary School on October 4 and 5. Class starts at 8:30 AM on the 4<sup>th</sup>. Students must be 11 years of age and please bring a sack lunch. All materials are provided.

Any questions or concerns may be directed to Conservation Officer Hans Walleser at 605-775-2475 or PO Box 433 Burke, SD 57523. Have fun. Be safe.

## **Hyde/Hand Counties**

Cory Flor



### **Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below***

Lots of small bass are being caught at Lake Louise but not much for size. Anglers have also been catching lots of bass and perch at Jones Lake.



### **Hunting Report:**

The waterfowl season opened on Sept. 27 and hunters were having good success. The water is receding but if you can find water, you can find birds. A lot of the shallow wetlands in the area have dried up. Hunters had a mixed bag of green wing and blue wing teal, gadwall, shovelers and mallards.



### **Fishing Report:**

Fishing from West Bend to Spring Creek has been slow, catching some catfish in the Oahe tailrace and occasional walleye at night on plugs.



### **Hunting Report:**

Archery deer hunters have some success hunting tree belts, hunting will become better as weather cools down. Grouse hunters doing fair on nice days. Resident Pheasant hunters did well hunting tree belts and thick cover.

### Road Hunting Rules

#### **Hunting on Public Road Rights-of-Way**

Laws and rules governing trespass and motor vehicles are complex. The laws may be simplified if the hunter remembers to hunt only on foot during established seasons, to ask permission to enter private land, and not to drive on state and federal lands. It is also advisable to restrict vehicular travel in wet weather when roads, trails, rangeland, and cropland could be damaged and in dry conditions when fire danger is high.

*ATTENTION DOG OWNERS: Hunters who hunt road rights-of-way should understand they must*

*maintain control of their hunting dogs at all times. Dog owners who allow their animals to remain*

*on private property without landowner permission for the purpose of flushing game birds may be subject to trespassing charges. Dogs may be used in the unarmed retrieval of lawfully taken waterfowl and small game birds from private property. However, under no circumstances may dogs be used to intentionally flush birds from private property to hunters in the road rights-of-way.*

Road rights-of-way, excluding the Interstate highway system, are open for the hunting of small game

and waterfowl (see Mourning Dove, Youth Pheasant, and Resident-Only Pheasant seasons for special

road hunting restrictions). However, no person, except the adjoining landowner or any person receiving

written permission from the adjoining landowner, may use such highways or rights-of-way for the purposes

of discharging any firearm or for the purposes of hunting within a 660-foot safety zone surrounding an

occupied dwelling, a church, schoolhouse, or livestock. Neither the person discharging a firearm at small

game nor the small game being shot at may be within the 660-foot safety zone.

The rights-of-way along a section line or other highway is open for hunting if:

1. The rights-of-way has been commonly used by the public for vehicular travel, as demonstrated

by the existence of a well-worn vehicle trail.

2. An intentional alteration or adaptation has been made to the rights-of-way to enhance the natural

terrain's utility for vehicular travel or to permit vehicular travel where it was not possible before.

**NOTE:** Fences are sometimes not on a rights-of-way boundary and sometimes there is no fence. Most

section line rights-of-way are 66 feet wide. Some acquired rights-of-way are wider.

- Hunters can take only small game (except mourning doves) and waterfowl within the rights-of-way

on foot. The hunter must be within the rights-of-way and the game must have taken flight from within

or be flying over the rights-of-way

- The person must park or stop their vehicle as far to the right-hand side of the road as possible

- If the person who discharges a fi rearm is more than 50 yards from the vehicle, the doors on the

side of the vehicle nearest the roadway must be closed, but the engine may remain running

- If the person who discharges a fi rearm is less than 50 yards from the vehicle, all of the doors of the

vehicle must be closed and the engine shall be turned off

- It is NOT legal to shoot small game and waterfowl that takes flight from rights-of-way over a Federal

Refuge or Indian Tribal Trust lands. If a state-licensed hunter shoots at a bird across the fence on either of these lands, the hunter may be subject to arrest by U.S. Fish & Wildlife officers

- Small game and waterfowl taken from the rights-of-way but falling onto private property can be

retrieved by unarmed hunters on foot

- No person may discharge a fi rearm, muzzleloader, crossbow or bow and arrow at any big game

animal, except turkey to be taken with a shotgun using shot shells or with a bow and arrow, from within

the rights-of-way of an improved public highway

- A person may not discharge a fi rearm or other weapon across or from any Black Hills National

Forest system road

- Any person who, while hunting road rights-of-way, negligently endangers another person, or puts that person in fear of imminent serious bodily harm, is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor

**Jones County**

*Dan Dobesh*



**Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

No Report



### **Hunting Report:**

No Report

## ***Lyman County***

*Dan Dobesh*



### **Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

No Report



### **Hunting Report:**

No Report

## ***Potter County***

*Brad Saltsman*



### **Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below:***

Potts Dam – No Activity,

Lake Hurley –No Activity

Simon Dam – No Activity.

Missouri River – fishing is very slow from Swan Creek south to the Sully County line. Anglers are reporting decent catches of walleye in the Morreau river. Salmon fishing is picking up in the Whitlock Bay area.



### **Hunting Report:**

Dove – Hunters are finding few doves in Potter county and Walworth County

Goose – Hunting is better in the northeast corner of Potter county around the Tolstoy area. Several small lakes and sloughs have been holding resident geese.



Grouse – There are very few grouse in Potter and southern Walworth counties. Hunters will find the grouse in NW Potter and SW Walworth counties.

Deer – Archery Deer started last weekend. Potter County has a good deer population.

Antelope – Antelope season begins this weekend. There are several small herds scattered throughout southern and western Potter County and a few small

## **Stanley County**

Josh Thompson



**Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.**

Fishermen are reminded that the daily limit for walleye is 4, of which only 1 of those 4 walleye may be 20 inches or longer.

The minimum length limit for walleye caught on Lake Sharpe is 15 inches.

**Twin Dams** – Little fishing activity observed.

**Hayes Lake** – Little fishing activity observed.

**Ft. Pierre Nat. Grasslands** – Fishermen have been having some luck catching crappie and perch.

**Lake Oahe** – Anglers have been catching fish up at Cow Creek & Minneconjou. Seeing some healthy looking fish coming from these areas.

**Lake Sharpe** – Catfish bite has been pretty good at the mouth of the Bad River and in the tailraces.



**Hunting Report:**

The Ring-Necked Pheasant Season starts this Saturday, October 18<sup>th</sup>

Daily limit for pheasants is 3 rooster pheasants

**Pheasant** – Bird numbers look good this year. Both the Fort Pierre Grasslands and Stanley County Walk-In-Areas are great places to find birds.

**Grouse** – Good amount of grouse on the Fort Pierre Grasslands and Stanley County Walk-In-Areas. Early morning and evening seem to be the best times to be out.

For any further information, Game, Fish & Parks hunting and fishing handbooks are available at local licensing agents; or you can visit the SD Game, Fish & Parks website at [www.gfp.sd.gov](http://www.gfp.sd.gov).

## **Sully County**

Andy Schmahl





**Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below.**

Cottonwood: No Activity

Lake Oahe: Fishing for walleyes in Sully County is still very slow. Most fishermen are going way up into the Cheyenne River to find walleyes.



**Hunting Report:**

Duck: Duck Hunting in Sully County is pretty poor due to a lack of any shallow water.

Goose: Goose Hunting in Sully County is also very poor due to a lack of birds and water.

Youth Pheasant: Youth Pheasant hunting runs from October 4<sup>th</sup> through October 8<sup>th</sup>. Conditions should be much better than last year and bird numbers have also risen substantially.

***Tripp/Todd/Mellette Counties***

*Matt Hill*



**Fishing Report: See Missouri River Report below**

No Report



**Hunting Report:**

No Report

***Walworth County***

*Doug DeLaRoi/Brad Saltsman*



**Fishing Report: *See Missouri River report below***

Small lakes have seen little use with some success catching small perch and bullheads. Lake Oahe has had spotty success with anglers catching walleye from 14 to 18 inches.



**Hunting Report:**

Good numbers of doves and geese in the area.

## Missouri River report:

### *Lake Oahe and Lake Sharpe*

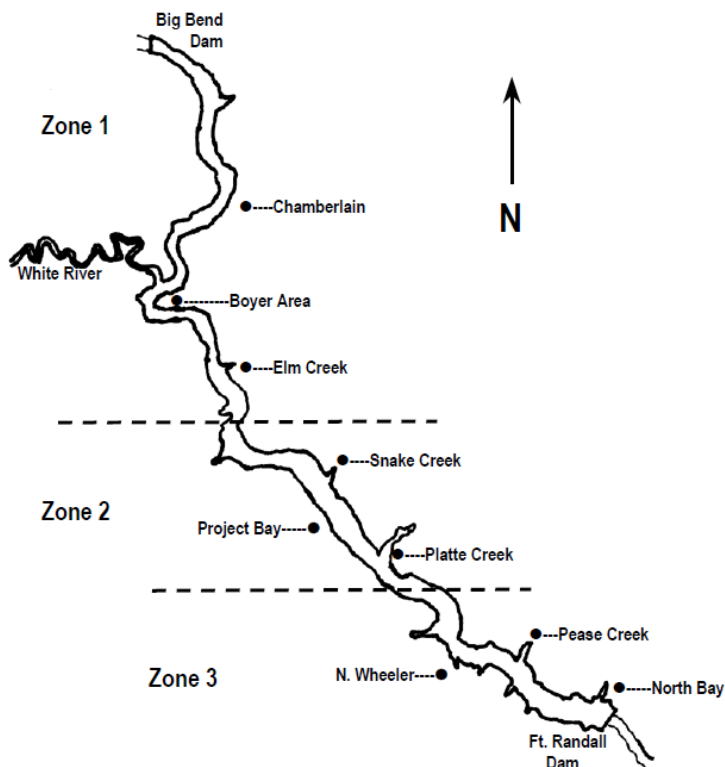
*Kyle Potter*

#### **Lake Oahe**

No Report

#### **Lake Sharpe**

No Report



#### *Lake Francis Case*

*Rachel Tribble*

Zone 1 – The walleye bite has been tough throughout the upper third of the reservoir. Anglers are catching some smaller fish, and very few limits are being brought in. The walleye bite has been slightly better in the Crow Creek Area, with a few limits being brought in.

Zone 2 – No fishing activity observed in this area.

Zone 3 – No fishing activity observed in this area.

**Reminder: Walleye/Sauger daily limit is 4 fish per day. The minimum length limit is 15" and the daily limit may include no more than one walleye/sauger 20" or longer.**